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THE CLEVELAND CLUB HOUSE

DEAR EDITOR: The Isabel Hampton Robb Memorial in Cleveland, which has slowly been developing during the past eighteen months, has been established. In outward form a club house for graduate nurses, it is a broad, three-story dwelling house in a central location, accommodating about twenty nurses in residence. The arrangement of the interior is very similar to that of Mrs. Robb's last home, making it especially appropriate and giving to it almost her personal touch.

In the Memorial will be located the registry for graduate nurses and other nursing interests, in accordance with the ideas expressed by Mrs. Robb to her friends. She wished earnestly for the influences making for the uplift of her profession and it is hoped to make the spirit of the Memorial in accordance, not a club house only, but a source of light and strength in the nursing world, as she stood a leader among women of her profession. With this end in view it is necessary to establish a fund, the interest to be used for lectures, giving to all nurses advantages, so that the graduate of yesterday may keep in touch with the newer knowledge of the graduate of to-day. It is hoped by this means to attract women of broad intelligence, for surely she, upon whose care depends life and death, should be equipped mentally as well as physically and morally for her great responsibility.

The work of establishing the Memorial has been undertaken by a committee composed of graduate nurses and other friends of Mrs. Robb. Friends from afar as well as those in Cleveland are contributing to the fund. The building has been paid for, but it is not yet entirely equipped. Some rooms are being furnished by individual subscriptions, others by the combined subscriptions, of groups of friends, and it is hoped the house will be ready for occupancy by March first, when the management will be entirely in the control of the Graduate Nurses' Association of Cleveland.

It is needless to say how great is the gratification of those who have undertaken this task at the satisfactory outcome. The inspiration of Mrs. Robb's character and personality, and the desire to see a fitting Memorial in the city to the betterment of which she gave her wise counsel and untiring energy, have been the incentives which have led to its establishment.

It now rests with the nursing body to realize in the Memorial her highest ideals. As she saw visions and dreamed dreams may you hasten into existence the facts.

Ohio.

HELEN NEWELL GARFIELD.

ATTENDANTS

I

DEAR EDITOR: I like my JOURNAL very much, and I am glad when the day comes around, that brings it to me.

I am especially interested in the question now being discussed namely, "The Assistant to the Trained Nurse." There are points for and many against her. I agree with the JOURNAL, that it is a hard problem to solve. Personally I think partly trained attendants are apt to overstep the boundary set for them, and pose as nurses having a wider experience, gaining a better salary in an easy manner, and usurping the place of the nurse who has spent three of the best years of her life in a training school. I hope to hear both sides of the question. Very truly yours.

R. C.

II

DEAR EDITOR: May I say that the suggestion that nurses should amend their own registration acts so as to provide for a class of legally recognized trained attendants seems to me a most destructive and despairing proposal, opening the way to a complete confusion as to nursing standards?

We are nurses, holding an ideal standard of what nursing should be. We try to embody this standard in an accepted minimum of training and protect it by legislation. Our business is to support and advance our standard, not to bring other classes of workers into existence. If there are to be trained attendants their right is for their own leaders to come forward and state their aims and wishes and to work for the education and protection that they feel it their right to have. We have no more right to create and control the training of a class of attendants than physicians have to create and control nurses.

Why should we do to others what we refuse having done to us?

The argument is made that, as we resent efforts by physicians to suppress education for nurses and the advance of the nursing profession so in turn we should not oppose the creation of a legally established attendant class. But there are no people desirous of being attendants—there is no movement toward purposely upbuilding an attendant class. The nursing movement was to lift women up, but an attendant movement is to press them down and back. The two cases are thus not similar, and the argument is not sound. An attendant class is inevitably a class economically sweated, underpaid, and oppressed. We should therefore do a social wrong by calling it into being. Proofs of this statement may be seen in many foreign countries.

It is also said that the attendant class is actually here, that many hospitals are simply giving an attendant's training, and that it would be better to recognize this by legalizing the inferior status. This seems to me a contradiction of all the laws of growth. I fully believe there are in the country just as many poorly taught doctors as there are poorly taught nurses, but because of that medical schools and medical laws do not cease trying to bring all up to one reasonable level of honest standard, professionally, and why should we? Are we so quickly discouraged? Did we not know that there was only one way of safety and that was, to lift high our standard and encourage all to follow it?

As a matter of fact what most people really mean when they talk of "attendant" or second grade nurse, is not really a nurse. What they mean, and what they need, is a good household help—a very different thing. Because they do not know how to get her, they grasp at the nurse, who is taught to shirk no duty, and because the nurse is expensive they search for ways to produce a cheap nurse. The household help is needed, but she is not our problem. Let us not be stampeded by false doctrines among our friends or by the colossal power of huge financial concerns. Meantime, all these threats of danger convince me more firmly, if that be possible, of the urgent, daily growing need for women to "count" for something, politically—the need of active citizenship—the need of the ballot in our hands—final instrument for guiding legislation.

New York.

L. L. Dock, R.N.